

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 204821

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PK, US

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM AND
PAKISTAN'S MINISTER OF STATE AGHA SHAHI, AUGUST 11, 1978

SUMMARY: IN A MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM, AGHA
SHAHI REITERATED PROFOUND SUSPICIONS ABOUT AFGHANISTAN
AND DESCRIBED HIS RECENT TRIP TO MOSCOW. SHAHI SAID PAK-
ISTAN ALSO ANTICIPATED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN LIBYAN
AID. THE UNDER SECRETARY REAFFIRMED THE U.S. POSITION

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ON THE DURAND LINE. END SUMMARY.

1. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM MET WITH AGHA SHAHI IN NEW
YORK ON AUGUST 11 FOR AN HOUR-LONG REVIEW OF U.S.-PAKISTAN
RELATIONS. PAKISTAN EMBASSY MINISTER HAYAT MEHDI AND
ACTING UN PERMREP KHURSHID HAIDER WERE ALSO PRESENT.
NEA/PAB COUNTRY DIRECTOR COON WAS NOTETAKER. DURING THE

EXCHANGE OF COURTESIES, SHAHI SAID HE WOULD BE LEAVING NEW YORK THAT NIGHT FOR ROME WHERE HE WOULD BE PAKISTAN'S REPRESENTATIVE AT THE PAPAL FUNERAL AND WOULD RETURN TO ISLAMABAD ON MONDAY IN ORDER TO BE PRESENT FOR TALKS WITH THE LIBYAN PREMIER JALLOUD.

2. AFGHANISTAN: THE UNDER SECRETARY SAID HE VALUED HIS TALKS IN ISLAMABAD WHICH HELPED HIM UNDERSTAND PAKISTAN'S

CURRENT DILEMMAS AND CIRCUMSTANCES. WE CONTINUE TO WATCH THE AFGHAN SITUATION CLOSELY AND ARE GETTING SOMEWHAT MIXED SIGNALS. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS SOME FORWARD MOVEMENT IN THE AID FIELD, INCLUDING BOTH OFFICIAL AND SOME PRIVATE AMERICAN PROGRAMS.

AGHA SHAHI RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT QUITE FRANKLY THE GOP IS COMING TO BELIEVE THAT THE AFGHAN REGIME IS QUOTE PLAYING WITH US UNQUOTE. THEY ARE FULL OF SMOOTH TALK BUT THEIR ACTIONS ARE QUITE UNFRIENDLY. THEY HAVE ESCALATED THE PUSHTUN AND BALUCH ISSUES AND ARE NOW TALKING ABOUT THE QUOTE NATIONAL DESTINIES UNQUOTE OF THESE PEOPLE. HE PARTICULARLY CITED THE AFGHAN EFFORTS TO DENY PAKISTAN THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A STATEMENT AT THE NON-ALIGNED MEETING IN BELGRADE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE AFGHAN RADIO WAS NOT YET INCREASING ITS PROPAGANDA OUTPUT AND SURMISED THAT
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THIS WAS BECAUSE THE GOP HAD INDICATED IT WOULD REACT IN KIND. SHAHI CONFIRMED THAT TARAKI HAD ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT ISLAMABAD IN DECEMBER AND THAT THE AFGHANS HAD INVITED THE PAKISTAN COMMERCE MINISTER TO VISIT KABUL. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE AFGHANS WANTED TO GET THE BEST POSSIBLE ECONOMIC AND TRANSIT ARRANGEMENTS AND WOULD TRY TO DIVORCE ECONOMIC ISSUES FROM POLITICAL MATTERS. HE CONCLUDED THAT PAKISTAN DEEPLY DISTRUSTS THE DRA AND BELIEVES THAT THE KEY TO THE FUTURE RESTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

3. DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS: IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, AGHA SHAHI DESCRIBED HIS MOSCOW VISIT, DURING WHICH HE TALKED WITH YAKOV MALIK FOR A TOTAL OF FIVE AND A HALF HOURS. SHAHI SAID HE RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD THE INVIOABILITY OF PAKISTAN'S FRONTIERS. HE NOTED THE SOVIETS' GREAT INFLUENCE WITH INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN AND SUGGESTED THAT AFGHANISTAN ESPECIALLY WOULD BE HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO SOVIET ADVICE. MALIK REPORTEDLY RESPONDED THAT SHAHI HAD RAISED SERIOUS QUESTIONS AND THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD GET BACK TO HIM ON THE QUESTION OF FRONTIERS. HE REITERATED GENERAL SOVIET

PRINCIPLES ON THE INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS AND THE NON-USE OF FORCE, BUT WAS NOT SPECIFIC ON THE PAK FRONTIER QUESTION. WHEN MALIK INQUIRED ABOUT CENTO, AGHA SHAHI SAID HE REPLIED THAT PAKISTAN WOULD BE THE SOLE JUDGE OF WHEN AND HOW TO LEAVE CENTO AND AFFIRMED THAT PAKISTAN DID NOT WISH TO DISRUPT RELATIONS WITH ITS FRIENDS.

SHAHI SAID HE SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED DISCUSSION ON CHINA BUT IT WAS CLEAR TO HIM THAT THE SOVIETS WERE DEEPLY OBSESSED WITH CHINA AND TALKED OF THE U.S. PLAYING THE

QUOTE CHINA CARD UNQUOTE. THE SOVIETS ALSO SEEMED VERY BITTER ABOUT THE U.S. REFUSAL TO APPROVE EXPORT OF THE COMPUTER IN THE WAKE OF THE SHCHARANSKIY TRIAL. THEY
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REVERTED TO THIS ISSUE AGAIN AND AGAIN.

IN THE ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS, SHAHI SAID THE SOVIETS WERE TOUGH AT THE BEGINNING BUT MADE CONCESSIONS TO THE EXTENT OF DOLLARS 220 MILLION ON CREDITS FOR THE STEEL MILL. SHAHI POINTEDLY NOTED THAT PAKISTAN WAS NOT SEEKING MILITARY SUPPLIES FROM THE SOVIET UNION AS THE PREVIOUS PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT HAD DONE.

4. DURAND LINE: THE UNDER SECRETARY, RECALLING THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED IN ISLAMABAD ABOUT OUR POSITION ON THE DURAND LINE, TOLD SHAHI THAT WE HAD SENT A MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR HUMMEL REAFFIRMING OUR POSITION WHICH WAS STATED IN THE SEATO COMMUNIQUE OF 1956.

5. AGHA SHAHI, REFERRING TO THE FORTHCOMING DISCUSSIONS WITH LIBYAN PREMIER JALLOUD SAID THAT PAKISTAN NOW ANTICIPATED CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE FROM LIBYA.

6. REPORT ON DISCUSSION OF REPROCESSING ISSUE BEING SENT SEPTTEL (NOTAL). CHRISTOPHER

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